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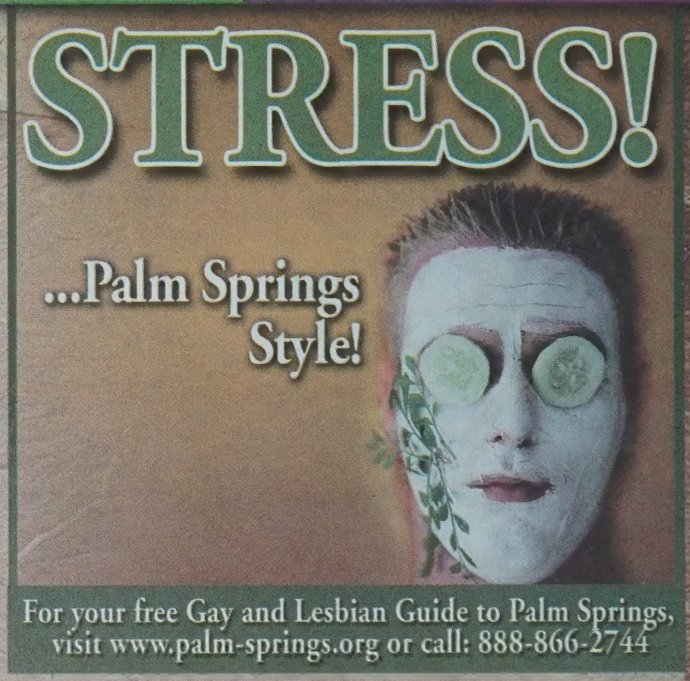

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White sandy beaches and a calm, clear-blue ocean, skirt the Gulf of Mexico in Florida's Suncoast region. The west coast cities of Tampa and St. Petersburg are year-round destinations perfectly suited for those who love the ocean and all that is associated with seaside holidays.

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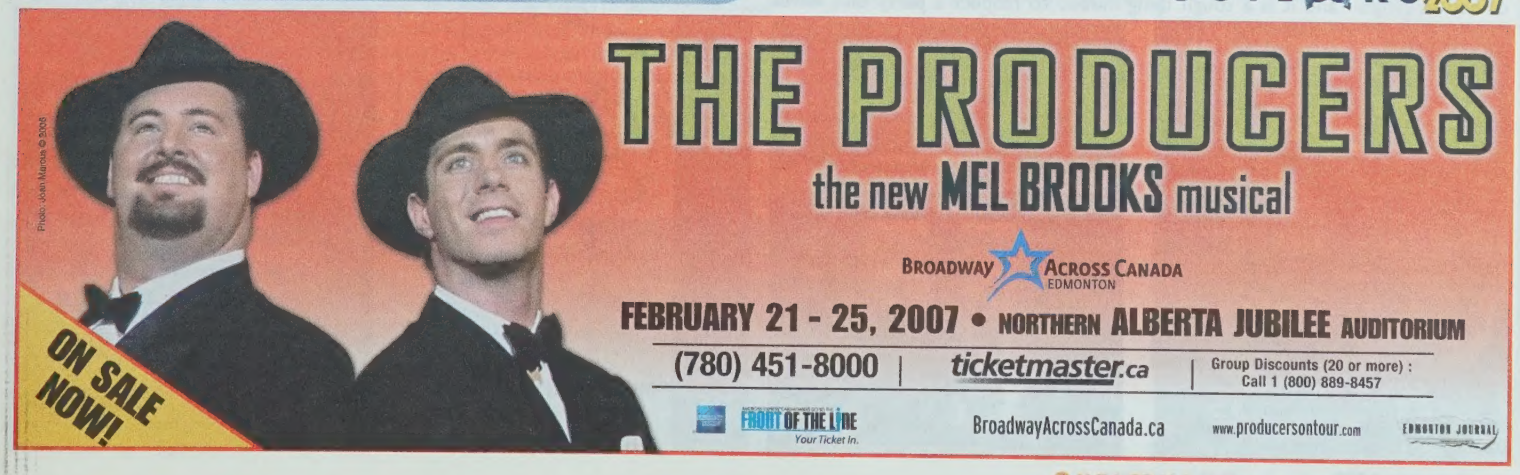
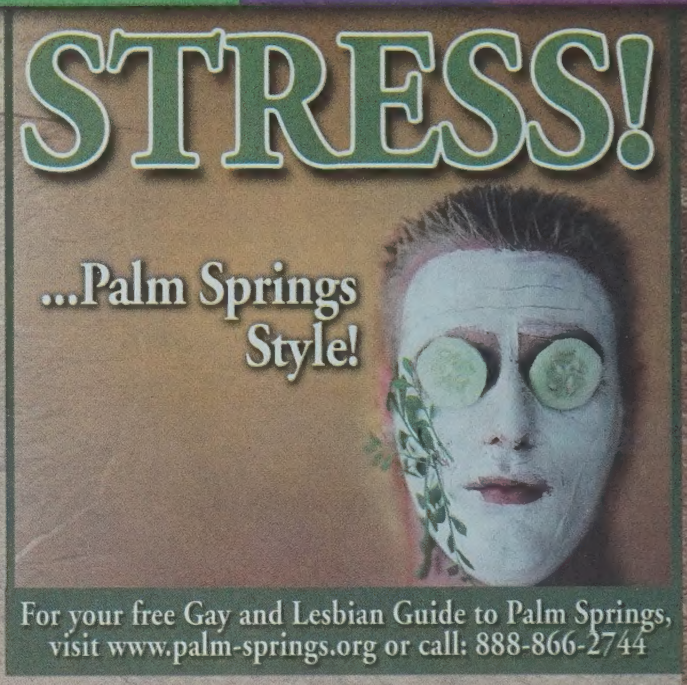
Nova Scotia has a long and varied history, and that includes a rich queer past.

2007 Calendar Center Spread





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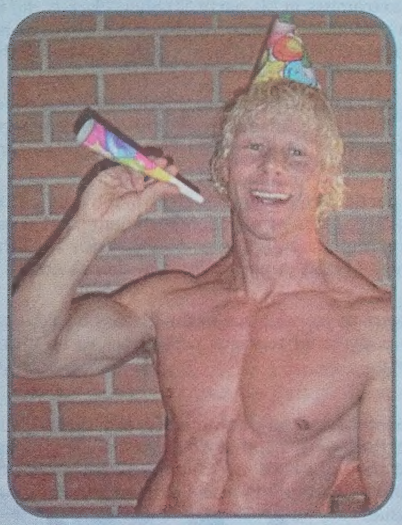

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2007 Calendar Center Spread

By John Coulbourn

The dust hasn't even settled on the latest same-sex marriage vote in the House of Commons (and while were on the subject, isn't it amazing just how much more common that place has become since "Canada's new government" took power) and already opponents of equal marriages for all are starting to scream that said vote was rigged and therefore means absolutely nothing.

They have arrived at that conclusion, it seems, because members of the Block and NDP caucuses were "whipped" into voting along party lines, as opposed to following their individual consciences.

This apparently renders the vote null and void to people who are "whipped" on a regular basis, either by Papal fiat or by some other saintly type who claims to have a hotline to God.

The lesson here is that, while in the real world, "no' still means "no," in the world of the religious right (as in the world of separatists) "no" simply means "it's time to start agitating for another vote until we get things our way".

But that's not the only lesson to come out of this vote. In fact there is a whole truckload of nuggets of wisdom here for students of the history of civil liberties, nuggets that we will outline herewith.

Nugget One: For a party that has long prided itself on inclusiveness while very proudly labeling itself the party of the charter, the federal Liberal party continues a long and not terribly flattering tradition of dithering on the whole issue of same-sex equality.

Jean Chrétien, you might remember, tossed it off to Paul Martin like so much dirty laundry, which is precisely how Martin continued to handle it once he assumed the mantle of leadership.

Instead of proudly embracing the issue, "Mr. Dithers" treated it like some sort of bitter pill he had to swallow, even going so far as citing his history as an altar boy in his attempts to pull a Pontius Pilate hand job and cast the Charter as the devil that was making him do it.

Mere hours after his election as head of the Liberal Party, Stéphane Dion continued in the noble tradition of Messrs. Chrétien and Martin, refusing to whip Liberal Members of Parliament when the vote was called and instead allowing them to "vote their conscience".

That may have kept him from stepping on any toes, but this is, after all, a matter of human rights—and it is a tough thing indeed to respect a party that leaves human rights to the individual consciences of its members. Just what do Liberals stand for, inquiring minds might well ask.

Oh well, if the time ever comes that the Liberals try to claim any sort of credit for extending the right to marry to the gay and lesbian community—and it is, after all, something that is being emulated in more and more countries around the world—they are going to have to try to bury the memory of these three wise guys before they do it.

Nugget Two: While many Canadians see this as merely a gay issue, it is, in reality, far bigger than that.

In kowtowing to the right-wing extremists in his party, Stephen Harper did far, far more than merely live up to one of his election promises—the one that had nothing whatsoever to do with income trusts, which is, of course, a whole other matter.

In tabling this ill-conceived piece of legislative bigotry and giving MPs the option of turning the clock back on the rights of Canadian gays and lesbians, Harper became the first Prime Minister since wartime to attempt to strip rights from a minority.

Now, that's an accomplishment, particularly when it is tied in with the gutting of women's programs and child-care plans—an accomplishment that every thinking Canadian is duty-bound to remember, it seems to me, if for no other reason that Harper should be reminded of it in perpetuity and there's bound to be an election soon.

Surely, every Prime Minister hungers to have a place in the history books—and for Harper to have earned his so early in what might well prove to be a brief mandate says volumes about the man.

All of it bad.

Nugget Three: While members of the gay community can quite rightly celebrate the fact that Harper's legions were slapped down by an even greater majority than the one that carried the vote legalizing our marriages across the land, every thinking Canadian should be alarmed by the 125 members of parliament who voted to re-open the issue.

These people have managed to get themselves elected to the senior parliament of our confederation and they've done it without even the faintest grasp of such simple notions as the protection of the rights of a minority in rule by majority, or the importance of the charter of rights and freedoms in the framework of the Canadian nation.

While we've long suspected that any idiot could get themselves elected to Parliament, we certainly didn't think there'd be quite that many of 'em. ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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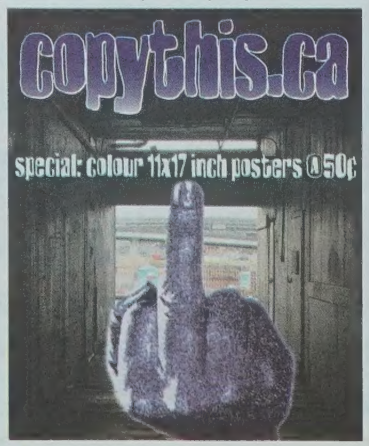
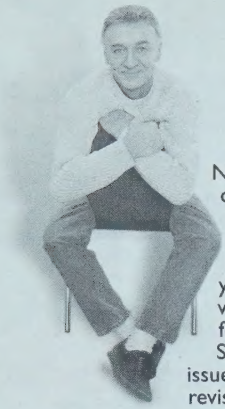


Seeing Red



By Roy Heale

Once again January is upon us and it's the time for New Year's resolutions and the optimism that always comes with the fresh start of another calendar. In this issue our fitness expert Ryan Spring has suggested some simple exercise routines for those readers who will make fitness their top priority for 2007. Whatever your personal goals may be we hope that this is a year when your dreams are fulfilled. There is much to look forward to in Canada's GLBT community now that Stephen Harper has declared the same-sex marriage issue is resolved and his government has no intention to revisit this legislation in the future.

Looking back to our last issue of 2006, it came to our attention that many readers are not familiar with a project called (PRODUCT) RED of which was made mention in Josh Murray's column Christmas Shopping for Dummies. In light of the importance of this project and the potential for a Canadian launch this year we thought it worthy of a little follow-up explanation.

Overall, (PRODUCT) RED engages businesses in the fight against AIDS. (RED) is a brand created by corporations inviting consumers to purchase this particular product where up to fifty percent of profits from this merchandise will be donated to the Global Fund to invest in African AIDS programs with a focus on the health of women and children.

The project launched in the United Kingdom on March 1, 2006 and in the United States on October 13, 2006. Launch partners in both countries included Converse, the Gap, Giorgio Armani and Motorola. Additionally in the United Kingdom, American Express participated. Apple and MTV Networks also joined the cause in the United States.

The high profile co-founders of (PRODUCT) RED are both well known for their championing of human rights causes and their dedication to the world AIDS pandemic. Bono (of U2 fame) has been using his celebrity status and influence to draw attention to extreme poverty in Africa and the AIDS problems since the Live Aid concert in 1986. As the co-founder of this new project, Bono is hoping to provide much needed funds for AIDS sufferers in Africa. The other co-founder is Bobby Shriver, chairman of DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa) and founder of Special Olympic Productions, which has raised more than sixty million dollars to support Special Olympic organisations worldwide. Following their successful joint venture for the creation of DATA in 2002 which leveraged public sector funding, they decided next to involve private sector funding in the fight against AIDS in Africa. Together their expertise and worldwide connections have ensured a successful launch of (PRODUCT) RED in 2006 with plans for expansion to be announced this year.

It was decided that RED would be the branding for these special consumer products as it is the colour recognised for emergency and also the colour of blood which is one of the ways HIV enters the system.

The beneficiary of these monies raised is The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) which is a unique, well-established global public-private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing resources to prevent and treat these three diseases. To date the GFATM has committed US$1.4 billion to HIV/AIDS programs in sub-Saharan Africa. These programs have already provided life-extending antiretroviral medications to 270,000 people living with AIDS and reached millions more with effective messages and tools to prevent future HIV infections. Over a half-million orphans have been reached with food, care and education. Overall the GFATM has committed US$4.6 billion to 385 programs in 131 countries worldwide.

In the early stages of (PRODUCT) RED several substantial sums of money were raised and disbursed by GFATM. In May 2006 $1.25 million flowed to

Rwanda, in September $4 million went to Swaziland and $5 million to Rwanda as a follow-up donation. More donation announcements are expected early this year following the recent holiday consumer spending on RED products.

"As consumers we have tremendous power and what we collectively choose to buy, or not to buy, can change the course of life and history of this planet" is the manifesto for (PRODUCT) RED. So far co-founders Bono and Shriver must be proud of their early achievements and the support already received from the private sector businesses in the U.S. and the U.K. The consumer reaction can only be described as phenomenal.

This power of purchase has already been demonstrated in 2006 with several RED products' sales exceeding expectations. The Gap (PRODUCT) RED INSPI(RED) T-shirt was the best selling item across the entire Gap brand for the month of October 2006. It certainly helped when Oprah Winfrey wore this RED product on her October 13th 2006 show. The Motorola RED RAZR through limited distribution in Chicago in October 2006 sold at more than twenty times the average rate of RAZRs sold through United States cellular channels. The Apple iPod nano (PRODUCT) RED Special Edition has been a huge hit with ten dollars from each iPod sold being donated to the Global Fund.

Hopefully, this new year will herald the announcement that Canadian businesses have joined the cause and we can make our discretionary purchases in support of this battle against AIDS. For the time being we will have to settle with online purchases made on Amazon.com and Ebay.com where RED products are highlighted.

We hope this short explanation helps those who were mystified by our December reference to (PRODUCT) RED and we hope it will inspire some future shopping trends for our readers.

For more information and details visit **joinred.com**

With each new year come new ideas to inspire all of us to determine our New Year's Resolutions.

Happy 2007 from everyone at *Outlooks*. ▼

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Queer Québec Culture

By Daniel Wylie and Michael Sinnott

Celine Dion

What do singer Céline Dion, playwright Michel Tremblay, the movie C.R.A.Z.Y., and drag queen Mado all have in common? They have all contributed to and advanced gay culture in Québec. The appearance and visibility of gay characters in modern Québec culture has been around for decades and openly gay artists perform regularly to sold-out houses.

Céline Dion became a gay icon in Québec prior to her international success when, in 1991, she sang a song written in 1978 by Luc Plamondon. The song is a soft ballad of a young woman who falls hopelessly in love with a young man by the name of "Ziggy". The lyrics speak of "He's a boy like no other, but I love him, it's not my fault, even if I know, that he will never love me... Yes, I know, he likes boys, I should reason myself, trying to forget him… but Ziggy". The video portrays a young gay man having fun discovering his youth and sexuality and Céline as a woman torn over her feelings for an obviously happy gay man.

Openly gay playwright Michel Tremblay has been known as one of Québec's—and Canada's—most prolific writers. His plays have been translated from French into many different languages and have been staged to make the characters more relevant locally. One production of the play *Hosanna* (written in 1973) transposes the main drag-queen character Hosanna and her lover Cuirette, who speak in a working class French dialect called "joual", from Montréal to Scotland—speaking English in the form a Scottish dialect. It was a natural fit, as some of Tremblay's nationalistic overtones of Québec and Canada can easily be superimposed on the relationship of Scotland and Great Britain. Gay characters have been featured prominently in many of his early works as well as some of his later contributions.

Another openly gay Québec playwright, Michel Marc Bouchard has penned some twenty-five works and is perhaps better known for having written the play *Lilies*, that in 1996 was transformed into a movie directed by John Greyson and starred Brent Carver. Interestingly enough, an English playwright by the name of Steve Galluccio wrote a very funny play called Mambo Italiano, about a second-generation new Canadian man of Italian decent coming out in Montréal. The play was actually translated and was produced first in French in 2000, then produced in English in 2001, to wide acclaim. Mambo Italiano has become the biggest and most popular box office successes of an English-language play in English in Quebec. In 2003, the play was brought to the big screen in a film adaptation.

Michel Marc Bouchard

Mado

The most recent gay-themed film from Québec was released in 2005 titled "C.R.A.Z.Y.". The film follows a young man growing up in Montréal during the 1970s dealing with the coming out process. He is surrounded with supportive—yet troubled—parents who are excising their own demons. This film was so popular that it was considered for Canada's Oscar nomination for best foreign film.

Rufus Wainwright

Rufus Wainwright, the openly gay singer/song writer, was born in the States but grew up most of his life in Montréal. The son of Kate McGarrigle—of the McGarrigle Sisters—has been performing since the age of thirteen. Since coming out in 1999, Wainwright has been writing and singing about living his life in the spotlight as a gay man. He was raped at the age of fourteen, and remained celibate for seven years—for fear he had contracted HIV. He has also gone public with his battles with crystal meth addiction. When he returns to Québec to perform, he is hailed as a returning son of the province—especially by the French entertainment media—and performs some of his songs in fluent French.

(There are many examples of gay characters featured on TV Cover Girl, produced for Radio Canada in 2005, which was unique amongst TV programs because it had many gay characters.) It comically chronicled the lives of drag queens in Montréal. While it lasted for only one season, the show was a breakthrough for commercial television by featuring mostly gay characters.

Comedy and drag go hand in hand with Mado. The featured performer at Cabaret Mado, Mado has been a fixture in the village, entertaining audiences from all walks of life for years. An accomplished singer in his own right, one of the more popular nights at the Cabaret is "Mado chante Abba"—Mado sings Abba. This is an excellent show that features ABBA songs sung in English, French and even Spanish.

Stand-up comics are represented by Robert Keller, a gay Anglo Montréaler who has taken New York by storm. He has been featured in the Québec entertainment media as one of our own doing great abroad. The opening quote on Robert's website is, "Bringing laughter and joy to the world, one Céline Dion joke at a time", featuring the comedy of his roots.

These artists and entertainers are only a small cross-section of the Québec GLBT community that are contributing to our own culture and to the cultural community of the world. ▼

Daniel Wylie is active in the HIV/AIDS, bear and leather communities. Michael Sinnott is a desperate HouseBear who just can't stop dancing and a former Mr. Edmonton Leather. They are now happily married and live and write in Montreal.

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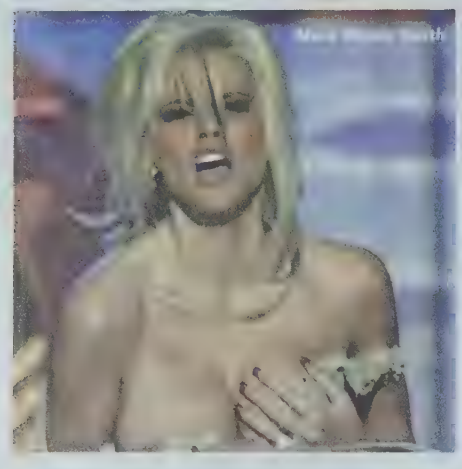

By Doug Ross

I'll be honest. Excluding that new blonde hunk at the gym, nothing makes my head turn faster than a dishy tabloid story promising the latest scoop du jour! The outrageously bad behaviour of movie stars, rock stars, athletes and politicians are all fair game when it comes to "scandalicious" headlines that beg for attention by calling out my name. So when it comes to dirty laundry, I totally agree: "enquiring minds DO want to know".

If I could personally thank those nosy reporters—who could probably be tempted to sell their offspring for the latest worldwide exclusive, as well as those pesky paparazzi who literally trip over themselves for the most unflattering sneak peek at the hottest boldface names—for a job well done, then I certainly would. Because let's face it, chasing last year's stories sure kept those guys hopping, and us guys guessing. Who could have predicted the celebrity meltdowns or major embarrassments of Mel Gibson, Kate Moss, Ted Haggard, Tori Spelling, OJ Simpson and Michael Richards? And those are just a few that immediately come to mind—and make me shiver. But newsworthy as those stories were, they were so last year! And I'm already dying to know what fresh dramas could be in store for 2007—aren't you? Good! And so, without any psychic claim for accuracy, I thought I'd get the snowball rolling with a few enticing predictions:

Anderson Cooper & Friend

1) The CNN hottie Anderson Cooper recently admitted to a flirtatious young writer that his bellybutton is an "outie". After that confession was duly recorded, the handsome scribe was then invited to stick around so that he and "Randy Andy" could get something straight between them!

2) During filming of a scene for the latest James Bond film, Daniel Craig's naked member was glimpsed by esteemed actress Dame Judy Dench, who declared that it was "a monster". Her tattling has sparked rumours that the sexy secret agent's numerical identity will fittingly be changed from 0-0-7 to 0-0-11!

3) Former *Playboy* centerfold, and train-wreck waiting to happen, Anna Nicole Smith was rushed to a hospital where she reportedly underwent another life threatening medical procedure. However it was later revealed that she was merely given a PAP test…and she failed it!

4) Canada's federal government was jolted when news leaked out that a "same-sex" orgy had taken place in the legislative library after hours. Prime Minister Stephen Harper reluctantly admitted that four of his Conservative Party members had been found in the library at that time. And although none of them were busy reading, each of them did confess that they preferred their pages bent over!

5) The hotly anticipated film *Dreamgirls* will be fabulous and win a ton of richly deserved accolades and awards! And that's no joke!

6) Soccer superstar David Beckham and music legend Elton John have apparently ditched their spouses and "teamed" up together. While out shopping for a china pattern, the mouthy musician claimed that Rufus Wainwright and Kevin Spacey were thrilled that they had been asked to be the new couple's "best men" at their marriage ceremony!

7) Famous for no apparent reason "it girl" Nicole Ritchie and the multi-millionaire Olsen Twins will be the first celebrity contestants booked to appear alongside host Howie Mandel on his new TV show *Meal Or No Meal*. The winner will get to have her cake…but will she eat it?

8) A sex tape will surface that features U.S. President George Bush and his Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in various compromising positions, with Condi clearly in control as she barks out orders for the President to follow. Pity that the President misunderstood her meaning, and instead agreed to lend her some of his mother's jewelry, after she'd hotly demanded a "pearl necklace"!

9) Sex symbol/vegetarian Pam Anderson joined crooner/vegetarian k.d. lang and media star/vegetarian Ellen Degeneres for a "girls only" private lunch. A copy of the restaurant's bill revealed that seafood had also been on the menu!

10) Britain's version of acting royalty Helen Mirren will win the Best Actress Academy Award thanks to her version of authentic royalty in the film *The Queen*. Gay men rejoice…but refuse to relinquish their crowns!

11) The marriage vows of control freak Tom Cruise and his zombie like wife Katie Holmes will be declared null and void after it's revealed that they were recorded on a tape machine that was set to "self destruct within five seconds" after the ceremony ended!

12) Multi-tasking pop star Madonna manages to adopt another child, write another book, record another CD, and take another husband after Guy Ritchie divorces her, citing her busy schedule as the "third party". Although the living legend is able to put on a brave face, her fans know that every day is not a "holiday" and that her confessional style autobiography will dare to tell the truth by blaming macho action star Jason Statham for stealing her husband's affections "lock, stock and barrel"!

13) Truthful Teaser: There is a scorching hot story making the city's rounds that involves a high-profile actor/dancer/Scientologist and a muscle-bound baldie, who charges by the hour…but I am unfortunately sworn to secrecy not to reveal it! That juicy scandal is just waiting to fall into the right blabbermouth's ear, who will then be indiscreet enough to divulge all of the messy details…but I'm telling you my lips are sealed! However when you eventually do hear that scandalous dirt—and hopefully you will—just remember that you heard it here first!

And so there you have it…a baker's dozen headlines—worthy new predictions that will keep 2007 in the running for the "Gold" when it comes to the sport of mud slinging! ▼

Doug is a busy producer/casting director within the Toronto entertainment industry. He has just been contracted to ghostwrite a book for a locally-based television personality.

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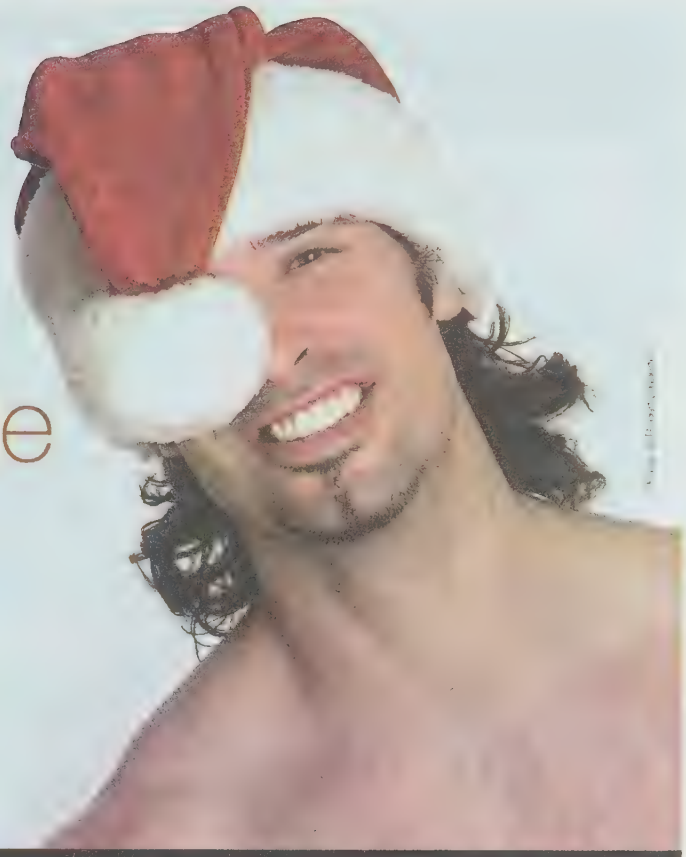

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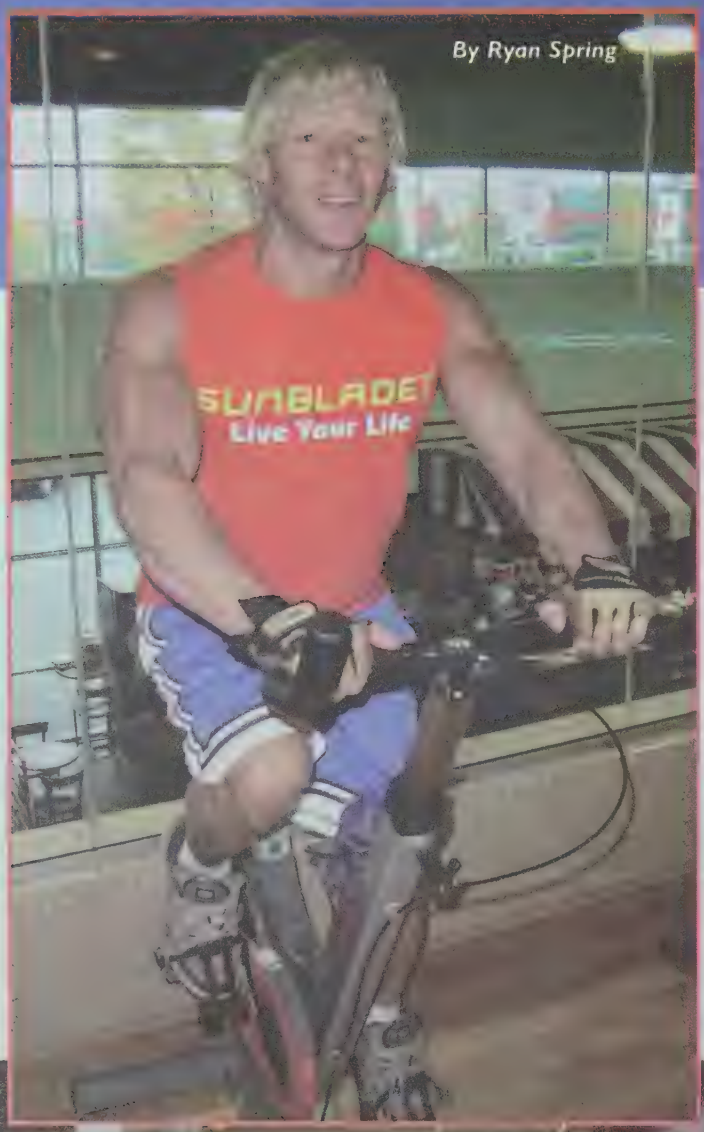


By Ryan Spring

A New You for a New Year

Once again it's that time of year for New Year's resolutions. We all have visions of perfect bodies and dedicated workouts to fend off the holiday food guilt. However, did you know that at this time of year there are more gym memberships sold than at any other time of the year. As well, a recent study comparing New Year's resolutions and fitness showed thirty-eight per cent of respondents wanted to lose weight while fifty per cent promised to exercise more and fifty-five per cent promised they would eat healthier. However, only twenty per cent of people actually kept their resolutions. For those who did keep their resolutions and actually made it into the gym, the average person didn't manage to maintain their ideal routine for more than three to six weeks.

If you are choosing to include a health and fitness routine as one of your prime resolutions (and let's face it many of us are), then you should approach it with realistic and attainable goals. So let's make this New Year's the year you keep your fitness resolutions. Here are some important tips to keeping your fitness promise:

SET A DATE

Just because it's a new year, it doesn't mean that you have to start precisely on January 1. You don't want to procrastinate and drag out the inevitable, so it's very important you set a date (and not the kind with a glass of wine, if you know what I mean). Incorporate your new fitness routine into your daily routine. This may require you to hit the gym after work or walking for thirty minutes during your lunch hour instead of hitting the food court. No matter how you choose to exercise, set a date to begin and stick to a routine.

SET YOUR GOALS

Setting goals which are measurable and realistic are key to any successful fitness routine. You don't want to say "I'm going to lose twenty-five pounds in thirty days", because the reality is you won't lose that much weight so soon, so don't set yourself up for the fall. Set small, realistic and attainable goals.

For example, aim to lose five pounds in one month or spend five minutes of cardio extra per week for one month or drop to twelve per cent body fat. This will not happen overnight, but it will happen with the right routine and continued effort. Also, write down your goals and look at them regularly checking off those you attain and adding new ones as you go along. Remember, easy goals do not motivate and overly difficult goals may frustrate.

LEARN TO DO IT RIGHT

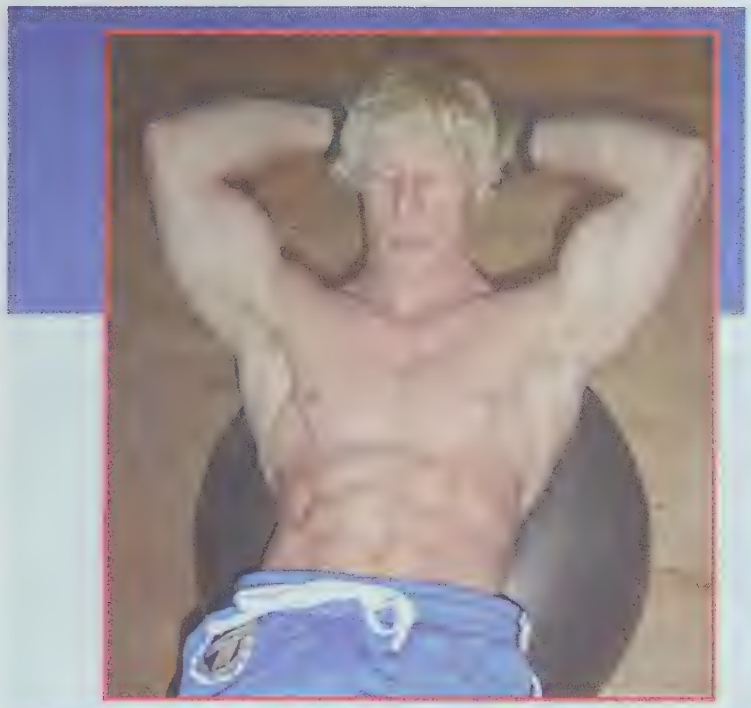
(And I am referring to consulting a personal trainer!) Personal trainers can perform a BMI (Body Mass Index) measurement to help you set your goals and measure your progress. Learning how to exercise the right way is key to preventing injury and bringing you closer to your New Year's goals. Proper technique, equipment and safety are paramount for every person exercising.

SEEK ENCOURAGEMENT

We all need to be encouraged, supported and congratulated. Involve people important in your life with your new goals. Have them join you at the gym, seek advice and encouragement from others who are skilled in exercise and share your goals and achievements with anyone who will listen. Your family, your friends, your partner, your co-workers and even the new hottie you are dating are all influences in creating positive feedback and encouragement in attaining your goals.

MAKE IT FUN

A big reason people quit their routine is that they become bored or burned-out. Build variety into your workout and plan to change your routine by mixing it up and modifying it every few weeks. Bring along your favourite music, workout with an experienced partner, watch your favourite show on TV while on a cardio machine, challenge yourself with mini-goals throughout your daily workout, involve yourself in a sport or group activity, take a Pilates class, learn Yoga one day a week or just be creative. Soon, you will be looking forward to this time you get to spend building a healthier mind and body.



CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS

Everyone wants a reward for their hard work don't they? Fitness is no exception. Take a long weekend off and give yourself some recovery or indulge in your favourite food within moderation and only as a reward on that special occasion. Be proud of achievements however small, as they all add up to a new you.

DON'T GET DISCOURAGED

Results will not come over night, but they will be there. Your body may need to catch up to the new demands you are placing on it. Always keep your sights on your goals and with every bit of sweat, feel the positive energy building a new you. Remember there will always be aspects of your life such as illness, unplanned travel, late nights at work, and others that may challenge your new fitness schedule. Learn to work around these challenges while retaining your focus on achieving your New Year's resolutions. Before you know it, it will be the holidays again and this time you can have that extra plate of food because you earned it!

Ryan Spring is an ACE (American Council on Exercise) certified personal trainer based in Vancouver. For online training and more information, visit ryanspringfitness.com

Photos by Jason Hughes - FreshManagement@aol.com

HOROSCOPE

Who puts the cream in our coffee? Who puts the salt in our stew? One might say that there are a couple of "outer" planets that will stir a few surprises in our various cosmic concoctions throughout 2007. The next few months promise to be everything that we want and so, so much more. Uh oh....

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The next year will offer you a myriad of romantic opportunities in exotic locales courtesy of Pluto and Jupiter. Spread your influence any way you can. Proud Rams should plan on more than a few Wilde excursions. You will meet a variety of mysterious and shocking folks who keep you on your toes. Will you be tossed head over heels? Hey, whatever turns you on.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls will have a certain animal magnetism thanks to the nuzzlefest of Jupiter and Pluto. Most of your sexual oomph occurs in January so make it last as long as you can. Expand your influence in some new social groups and reconnect with some long-lost pals. You may find that there are times when your eyes are too big for your stomach. This is a bad thing??

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

More than ever, pink Twins will pine for the opportunity, any opportunity, to connect with someone on a deeply personal level. This ache will manifest in various ways—you can improve current relationships or venture Out and form new ones. 2007 will toss a few pertinent possibilities in your professional path. Will you sleep your way to the top from the bottom? How typical.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

The drudgery of the day-to-day job can become a bit more exciting thanks to Jupiter and Pluto this year. Oh goodie. Gay Crabs who burn the midnight oil should take a reality check. Are you going where you need to go? You may begin to see some real progress or maybe you will recognize the futility of all work and no play. I am betting on the latter.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

What fantastic trick do you have up your sleeve? You may even surprise and impress yourself, proud Lion. Dormant creative projects will suddenly come to life. Even your social life will begin to heat up. You'll magically ascend to the "A" list from something quite a bit lower on the alphabet. Who lit your candle? Who cares, as long as they sing along before you blow it out?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

If you are thinking of moving or changing your residence in some way, put your thoughts into action. 2007 will bring your domestic agenda out of committee and onto the floor for a vote. Queer Virgins deserve a feathered nest full of all of the latest equipment. Think of what you really want and make it happen now that Pluto and Jupiter are in your postal code.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

A great idea can move mountains. At least that is what we are led to believe. And so, it would behoove you to pile all your great beliefs in a large bag and haul them around all through 2007, gay Libra. Some of them are brilliant. Some are not. But you will be shocked and surprised at what can resonate and pay your bills. There is certainly no accounting for tastes!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

2007 can be your big payoff year. Or maybe not. You see, proud Scorp, it all depends on how much you really want it, how hard you want to work for it and how much you are willing to compromise your very being for it. Sure, you can give it lip service but if it doesn't come from the heart, what good is it? If you decide to sell your soul be sure to get a top price for it.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

If it weren't enough that transformative Pluto continues to plotz in your sign, now lucky Jupiter will join in the merriment. Gay Archers will be too good to be true in January. They rub elbows with the glamoratti and glitterati and can go anywhere they want. Sadly though, you may set your sights too low—as is usually the case—and settle for less than you deserve. Don't!

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Do you have a guardian angel? It will seem that way all through 2007 when you get too many coincidental lucky breaks that seem to come out of nowhere. Why ask "Why?" pink Cap? Just take advantage of every stepping-stone and capitalize on the vagaries of fortune. But don't let it be all take and no give. Practice a bit of safe karma along the way. Give till it hurts. Ouch!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Your popularity will soar this January. The Pluto/Jupiter combo will not only energize your social calendar; it will also propel you right into the epicenter of the action. Make every encounter count. Aqueerians should not content themselves with a few short platonic interludes that spark for the moment and then go nowhere. Okay, sometimes short and sweet has its advantages too.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Who lit your corporate rocket, Guppie? Suddenly all your hard work and patience will pay off. You'll get the recognition, responsibilities and rewards from the power brokers. (Concentrate on the rewards.) What a nice change of pace! 2007 will be the year to make a professional name for yourself. Let's hope that it is better than the names that they are using for you now.

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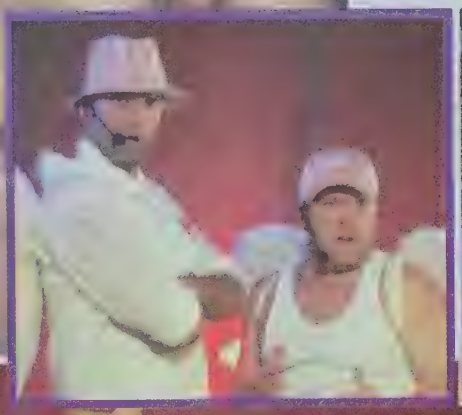
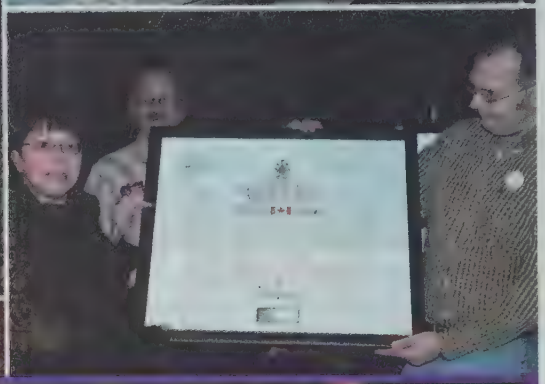
Lichtenstein's HerScopes: A Guide To Astrology For Lesbians is an international sensation. Buy it and feel the vibration.

Edmonton 2006 YEAR in REVIEW





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Florida Suncoast
Tampa & St. Petersburg

By Roy Heale
Photos: by Outlooks photographer

Sunset at Pass-a-Grille Beach

White sandy beaches and a calm, clear-blue ocean, skirt the Gulf of Mexico in Florida's Suncoast region. The west coast cities of Tampa and St. Petersburg are year-round destinations perfectly suited for those who love the ocean and all that is associated with seaside holidays.

Time stands still when you bathe in the glow of a Suncoast sunset while enjoying a seafood dinner at Hurricane's beach restaurant. It feels as though nowhere else in the world exists at that moment. The sugary white sand spit known as Pass-a-Grille Beach is renowned for postcard sunsets, which bankrupt the English language. It also happens to be one of the five gay beaches in this region. An evening spent here will be the experience of a lifetime and a true photo opportunity to make everyone immensely jealous back home in the chilly north. This national historic district is the oldest resort destination on the west coast of Florida.

Not surprisingly, the largest gay resort on Florida's west coast is located in St. Petersburg, just minutes from the Suncoast beaches.

With one hundred and twenty rooms and suites, the Suncoast resort complex includes white sand volleyball courts, a heated pool, four bars, tennis courts, the Flamingo Restaurant and more. This is the exclusively gay accommodation for a relaxing stay in the Suncoast region and all that it has to offer for surfside leisure and nighttime fun. The outdoor Tiki Bar beside the swimming pool is the heart of the resort, especially during the weekly Sunday afternoon T Dance. This gathering is renowned by tourists and the local gay community as the only place to be on Sundays—where you are certain to make new friends.

This resort also includes shops, a professional live theatre—Gypsy Productions—and large comfortable rooms making it a truly gay entertainment complex. The staff is friendly, helpful and full of great suggestions for where to dine and what to explore while you're visiting this neighbourhood.

Gay nightlife in St. Petersburg and Tampa has much to offer, with a diverse selection of restaurants, bars and nightclubs. If you want to remain close to the ocean, the Backroom Bar at Madeira Beach is a perfect spot.

A short thirty-minute drive to Tampa will be rewarded with some of the larger bars and clubs. The largest is Club Chambers with dance floors on two levels and great DJs catering to a mostly young male crowd with drag shows and male or female dancers wrapped around a stripper's pole on most nights. Just for the gals Tampa offers Flirt nightclub with regular drag king shows and younger large crowds on the weekends. Also in Tampa, The Azalea Lounge is located in an old brick building. Entering the Azalea Lounge is like stepping through a time portal into a swanky modern hideaway specialising in big, strong cocktails.

T-Dance at Suncoast Resort

Back in St. Petersburg there is no gay village, but there is a concentration of gay establishments in the downtown core and smaller neighbourhood bars around the city. Worth a visit is Georgie's Alibi owned and operated by the same people who run the Wilton Manners/Fort Lauderdale hotspot of the same name. Grand Central Station and The Platform offer the choice between a neighbourhood pub atmosphere in Grand Central or Levi, leather and uniform in The Platform. There's a very cruisy atmosphere and a secluded courtyard at the back of the building that houses both bars.

From gay beaches to restaurants and bars, this region has everything to satisfy the gay traveller.

A car rental will be important if you enjoy exploring, as there are so many sights and attractions to experience around the Suncoast region. However, there is also an excellent transit system if you plan to stay closer to home at the Suncoast Resort. The Beach Trolley runs every thirty minutes and will take you from one end of the beaches to the other with stops along the way, allowing you to enjoy the sights and learn what the beach town sites have to offer. From the beaches, the trolley also goes to downtown St. Petersburg, Baywalk and the Pier.

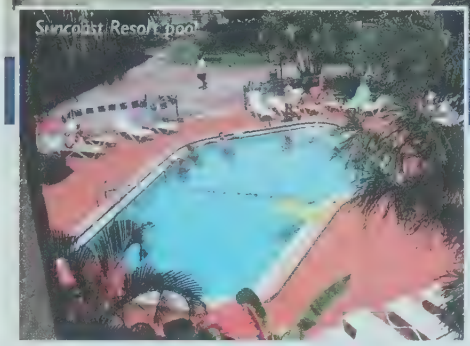
Whatever your mode of transportation it's a must visit to Treasure Island and the historic John's Pass fishermen's village and boardwalk. The Pass was created in 1848 by a mighty hurricane and was named after John LeVeque, a sea turtle fisherman, who was an early settler of the region. After the land was divided by the hurricane, fishermen settled along the shores and built the community, which still stands today. The boardwalk is dotted with seafood restaurants offering the catch of the day and a multitude of fruits de mer. It's a beautiful stroll along the boardwalk as you decide where to dine.

This is also the place for two very fun and very different ways to enjoy some ocean cruising. The Pirate Ship and the Sea Rocket both launch from John's Pass and each offers a unique experience on the high seas.

The Pirate Ship is a fun cruise for all ages and offers games for the kids and free beer and wine for the adults, all while dolphin watching with the wind in the sails, as you gently float across the ocean.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Sea Rocket travels at more than sixty miles per hour for a heart-pounding, adrenaline rush as you traverse the Gulf of Mexico. A sunset cruise is available and will afford the opportunity to see the horizon from several different vantage points as the sun goes down.

Travelling north along the beach road a rich reward awaits every explorer at Tarpon Springs. With dockside attractions and downtown treasures this small waterfront community combines the feel of a Grecian fishing port with historic Victorian-era homes in the village. The vintage mansions are hosts to numerous antique shops for those who love to find keepsake treasures and the lively Greek



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fishing community proffers the atmosphere of a Mediterranean escape. Just one visit will leave you wanting to return as soon as possible.

The beaches and villages will provide days of exploring possibilities, or simply fabulous sandy stretches for decadent relaxation by the calm, blue ocean.

Further south in Sarasota Bay, the Ringling Museum of Art is a unique experience and provides hours of fascinating entertainment. The waterfront mansion Cà d'Zan was once the home of John and Mable Ringling during their circus years and where they entertained the rich and famous. The Circus Museum houses the world's largest miniature circus covering 3300 square feet and the galleries house the Ringling's historically significant art collection and the legacy built during their lifetime. Located on sixty-six beautiful waterfront acres this a day trip worthy of the drive south. Well-organised guided tours are available or you can simply stroll the grounds at your own leisurely pace and enter the buildings that interest you the most.

Flamboyant, eccentric and brilliant Salvador Dali made his dreams come to life on canvas and St. Petersburg is home to one of the largest collections of his unique works, which are housed at the Salvador Dali Museum. His unforgettable art made him a celebrity and established Surrealism—the twentieth century art movement—as a worldwide sensation and changed the history of art, film and culture forever. This is a great place to spend some time wandering amongst his shocking and often controversial artistic creations.

Just a short thirty-minute drive to the northern end of Tampa brings you to the world of Busch Gardens Africa. This combination of African Safari natural wildlife and hair-raising amusement rides will take you across exotic terrain or climb two-hundred feet high for a view from the sky of all that the park has to offer. A leisurely train ride will take a circular route and show you where every attraction is located in just over one hour. Alternatively, a thirty-minute jeep Serengeti Safari will take you right into the natural habitat of zebras, giraffes, elephants and many more exotic African animals. Restaurants such as Zambia Smokehouse, Sahara Snacks, Kenya Kanteen and Sultan's Sweets will tempt your palate. On stage, KaTonga: Musical Tales From The Jungle is a stirring theatrical event filled with music, dance, lavish costumes and larger-than-life puppets. Amusement rides and roller coasters with names like SheiKra, Python, Scorpion, Rhino Rally, Gwazi and Montu will satisfy the biggest thrill-seekers. It wouldn't be a trip to Florida without a theme park visit and Busch gardens has everything for any vacationer.

Just a short drive back toward downtown Tampa is Ybor City, the historic Latin Quarter, providing an interesting blend of architecture, aromas, flavors, sights and sounds that remind one of Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Watch the historic art of hand-rolling cigars, relax with a famous café con leche, or stroll down La Setima looking for a great place to dine or dance the night away Latin style. Founded by Vincente Martinez Ybor in 1886, old brick buildings with wrought iron balconies give Ybor City charm and the creative Latin people give this community character and excitement.

From the cultural cities of Tampa and St. Petersburg, to the gay beaches along Florida's Suncoast, this region is rich in experiences for the gay vacationer. The locals are friendly and happy to see tourists of all stripes. A gay-friendly welcome is almost guaranteed wherever you end up visiting during your stay. There is so much to see and do it is certain to be a place where you can visit often and not run out of fresh holiday experiences. And then there are the beaches, the sunsets, the seafood and more. A diverse gay get-away to be sure. ▼

Roy Heale has been the owner of SuperMarketing for the past twenty-three years and is the founder and publisher of Outlooks magazine. He is also a member of the Travel Media Association of Canada.

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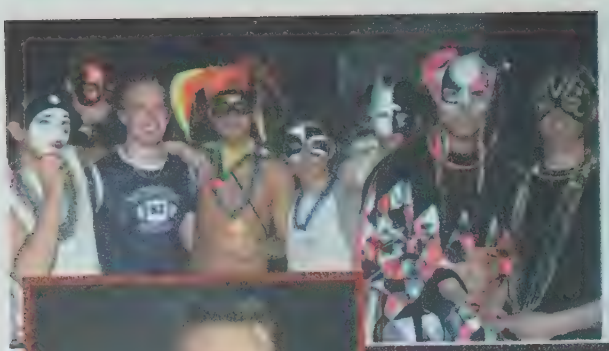

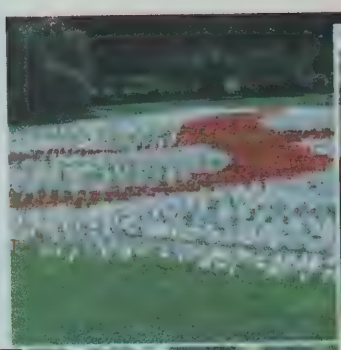

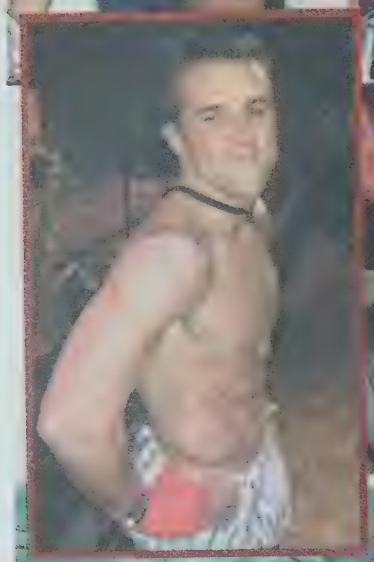

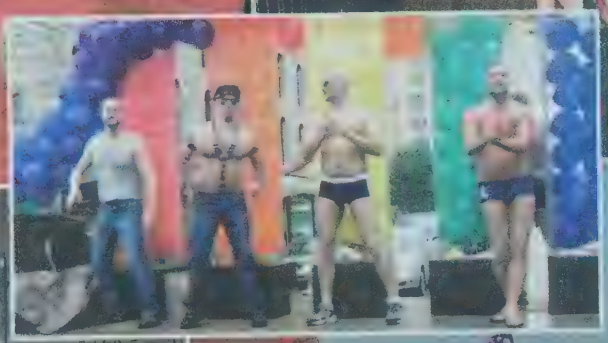

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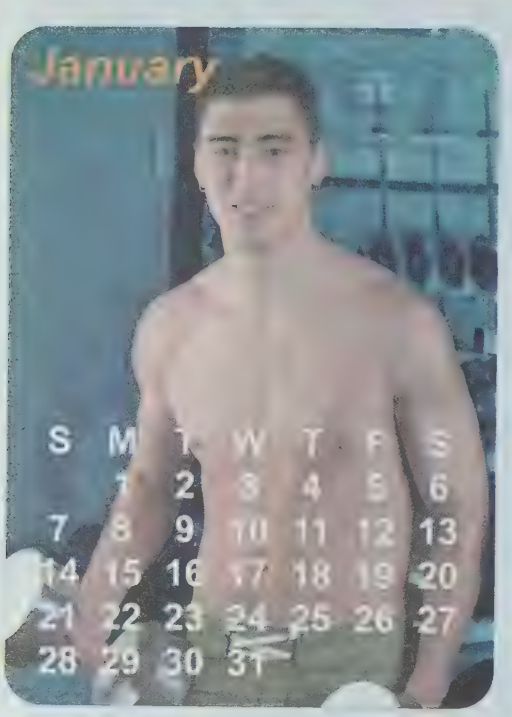
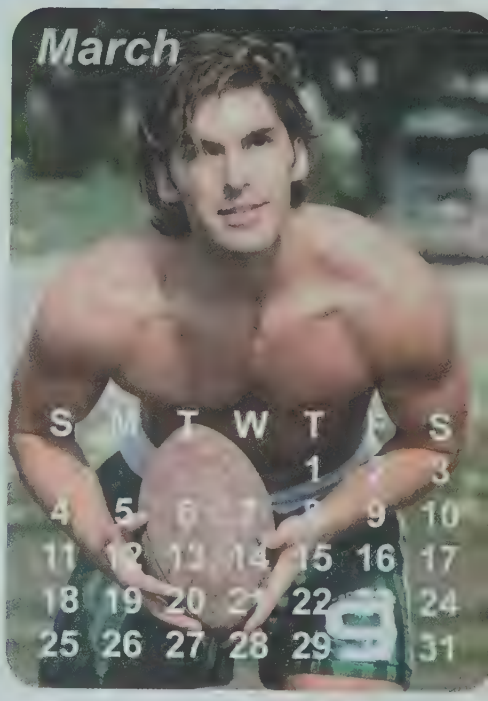
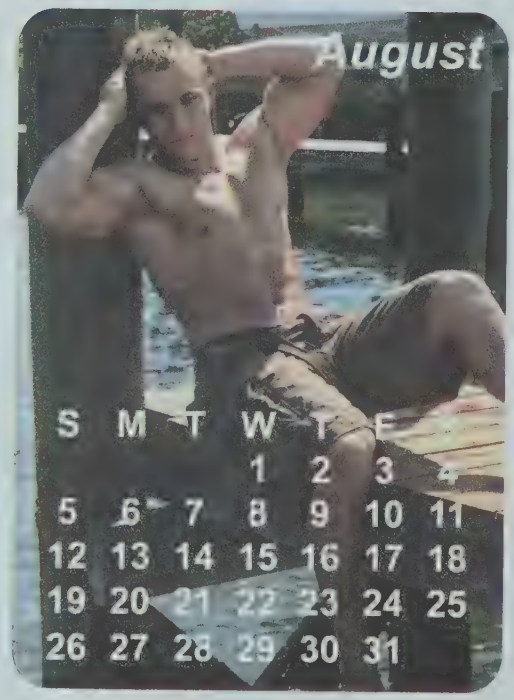
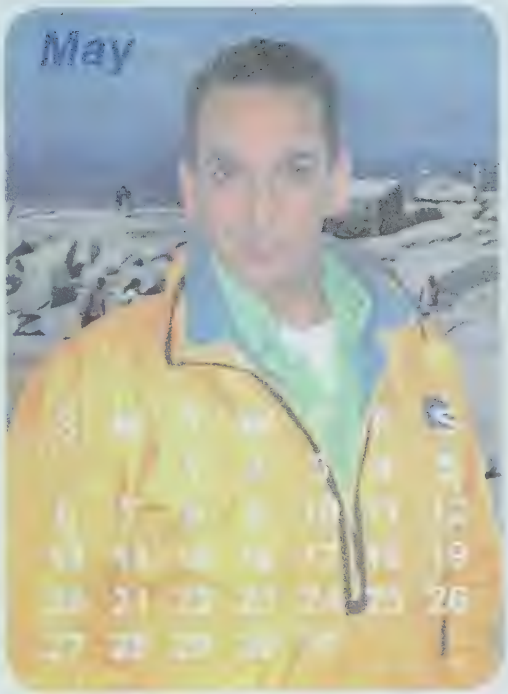
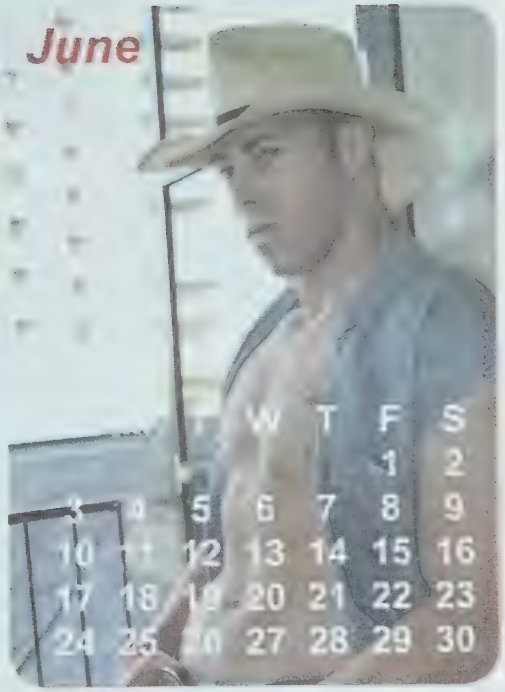
2007 OUTLOOKS











OUTLOOKS 2007

By Rick Pollard

GBLUR (Gays, Bisexuals, Lesbians at the University of Regina) has existed in one form or another for many years. Like many student clubs, it depended on the energy of a few dedicated activists and from time to time, disappeared from campus life. Finally, in 2005, students voted to support the creation of a permanent centre for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and two-spirited students at the University of Regina. The GBLUR Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity was born.

The creation of the Centre has made a big difference. GLBUR board member Patrick Button explains that, "A club is more social, a place where you can hang with like-minded people. Now, we have a legal and moral obligation to provide services to people."

The Centre is staffed by an executive director and is open five days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As a Centre funded by the University of Regina Students' Union, GBLUR has a mandate to serve all students, but their primary focus is to act as a voice for queer students and faculty. "Anyone can stop by and pick up condoms, or ask for counseling," says Button. "But the main purpose of the Centre is to provide a safe place for queer students to meet, to study and to access the community services they require."

In February, the centre will begin offering GLBT2-specific peer counseling. Volunteers will be available either in person or by phone to counsel students in distress. Button is excited by this development. "We've always wanted to do something like this, but we lacked formal training." GBLUR has contracted the Avenue Community Centre in Saskatoon to provide the necessary training to its volunteers.

GLBUR also organizes events, including the famous Divaz at the Owl show, a drag show held every spring at the Lazy Owl; and Pride Week at the U of R, held during the winter semester. They also host movie screenings from time to time, such as the screening of *Philadelphia* held this past fall on World Aids Day. They also have their own volleyball team, the GBLUR Elves.

The Centre also provides a resource library of both fiction and non-fiction literature and DVD movies. Button notes that the library is one of the reasons the Centre needs to raise funds. " People have been very good to us with donations, but a lot of the material in our library is stale-dated," he says. " We need fresh material, particularly DVDs that you can't necessarily find at Blockbuster."

The Centre has begun working more closely with other organizations than in the past. For example, the drama department did a performance of *The Laramie Project* earlier this year followed by a talk-back session held in conjunction with URQI (University of Regina Queer Initiative). GBLUR is also working with URQI on a new Positive Spaces campaign intended to make the campus a safer space for queer people. People receive training in queer issues and then are given an "ally" pin to wear. Button says that the pins are intended to be a signal to queer people that there are supportive people on campus who understand the issues facing queer people and are willing to help.

GLBUR also has a close working relationship with Generation Queer (GENQ), the off-campus group for queer youth that meets regularly at the GLCR Community Centre.

GBLUR has also become more politically active in the last year, thanks in part to a closer working relationship with CFAN (the Campus Feminist Action Network). One issue that the two groups recently tackled was a television commercial for HDTV. In the ad, five guys were watching a game on television and one of the teams scored. Two guys jumped up and hugged each other ecstatically while the other three looked on disapprovingly. GBLUR wrote letters to both SaskTel and to the CRTC, and the ad was quickly changed.

Another catalyst for GBLUR's political activity was Bill Whatcott, an anti-gay activist who once called for a Heterosexual Family Pride Day in Regina and has distributed anti-gay and anti-choice hate literature in Regina for years. Whatcott began distributing literature on campus with two semi-naked men on the cover making out, under a headline that asked, "Do you want these people teaching your kids?" The literature also claimed that gay men have hundreds of sexual partners a year, and that their promiscuity is responsible for the spread of HIV-AIDS. GBLUR wrote letters to provincial Learning Minister Deb Higgins calling on the government to reaffirm its support for gay teachers, and by hosting educational events about HIV-AIDS during World Aids Day.

GBLUR has also added a section to their website at **ursu.uregina.ca/gbl_ur** where people can report anti-GLBT activity such as a professor making homophobic remarks in class, or administrative decisions that discriminate against queer students or faculty.

Button admits that more needs to be done. "People on campus are generally supportive, but some students are still very homophobic. We also need to do more work on transgender issues. It's still hard for people who don't conform to gender roles of masculine or feminine. Even simple things would help, like non-gender specific bathrooms." Button suggests that, as the university undertakes new capital projects like the new laboratory building, gender-neutral bathroom facilities should be incorporated into the design.

Rural students require particular support. "Lots of students from rural backgrounds tell the same story," says Button. "They simply couldn't come out in their small town. They didn't know anyone who was openly gay. Most of them waited until they moved to the city and went to university."

Button complains that Regina does not have much to offer queer people off campus. "There's the bar, but aside from that, there really isn't much of a queer culture in Regina. We need alternatives to going to the bar all the time. We need gay-themed restaurants or movie theatres or queer-positive coffee houses. We also need more social groups for people to participate in."

Finally, Button says that traditional labels don't necessarily represent modern queer youth. "Some people find labels empowering. But others find them too rigid. For a lot of people, sexuality is not necessarily a binary concept. People are not necessarily either gay or straight. Queer is the one label that allows people to be whatever they want." ▼

Rick Pollard is a long-time community activist and one of the co-hosts of "Out On the Air", a GLBT program that airs Wednesdays on CJTR community radio in Regina.

Photo courtesy of the UofR Photography Department

IN THE NEWS

Stop The Presses! Ernestine Is Coming To Calgary

Lily Tomlin

By Outlooks Staff

World famous lesbian comedian, actor, writer, movie star and producer Lily Tomlin will be visiting Calgary as one of the entertainers at OutFest (see story page 24) on the evening of April 7, 2007 at The Jack Singer Concert Hall.

Ernestine

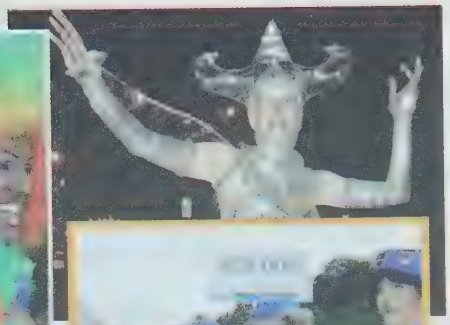
Her career began in the sixties with standup comedy routines in Detroit and later in New York City. Winner of a Grammy, four Emmys and two Tony awards just to name a few, this event will be a night to remember in Calgary. Tomlin's successful career was launched in 1969 on Laugh-In as the gum-chewing, wisecracking, snorting telephone operator Ernestine.

She is also well known for her recent role on television's *West Wing*, her movie parts in *All of Me*, *Nine To Five* and *The Incredible Shrinking Woman*.

Her stand-up comedy is legendary and this is one evening of laughs to look forward to in 2007.

For more details visit **Calgary2007.com** ▼

Montreal YEAR in REVIEW



By Sean McLennan

April 1 through 8, 2007, Calgary will play host to the first North American Outgames—the regional equivalent of the World Outgames, the first of which was held in Montréal last summer. The Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA), the governing body of the Outgames, has granted the bid to the newly created Calgary Outgames Legacy (COL) to coordinate. Although each event will be independently run by local volunteers and organizations, each Outgames has the same basic structure with three core elements: sport, culture/celebration, and a human rights conference. Consequently, "Outgames" is really composed of three companion events: Outgames, Outfest, and Outrights. These latter two components are one of the major distinguishing features of the Outgames, compared to the Gay Games, which was also held last summer and has a slightly longer history. More importantly, Outfest and Outrights significantly expand the intention and interest of the Outgames into something that draws more attention and will ultimately have a broader social impact.

Calgary was chosen to host the first Outgames in part to honour the twenty-fifth anniversary of Apollo's Western Cup (the world's oldest running multi-sport GLBT athletic event!) with which it will be amalgamated this year. Rather than trying to coordinate such a massive effort on its own, COL has taken a divide and conquer approach, tapping into the expertise that already exists in our community; Apollo will run the sporting component, while Outfest has been delegated to the Fairytales Presentation Society and Outrights to AIDS Calgary.

Culturally, we have much more background for this kind of sporting event in Calgary: the Olympics, the Western Cup... but Outfest and Outrights will be something unique for our community and require a little more exposition.

Outfest extends over the entire week of the Outgames and promises to be one heck of a party! There are already more than fifty-five events and performances planned—that's an average of seven or eight a day! Fairytales, which is, of course, well known for running the Fairytales International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival each year, has a long range goal of being known as one of Calgary's main cultural organizations and Outfest is a major stepping stone to achieving that goal. Far from sticking to the silver screen, they are pulling together events that span the full spectrum of the arts including drama, film, music, visual arts, spoken word and even comedy.

The Epcor Centre came on board early as a sponsor and will act as "Gay Central" for the week—Stephen Avenue has been dubbed the "Rainbow Mile" as many of the events will be located there or in the vicinity. Proposed performances include an organ concert conducted by Jim Picken, Queer Conscience—an evening of spoken word hosted by the Calgary Spoken Word Society, and an evening with the Calgary Men's Chorus and guests. Planned performances will include local artists and North American award winning artists alike. Gallery exhibitions will occur at a variety of venues including the Calgary Art Gallery, the Triangle Gallery, and Art Central. That doesn't even touch on Fairytales' expertise—film, or on theatre... And then there's the parties: nightly team-hosted gatherings, dances and, of course, the Outgames Ceremonies.

The emphasis of the Outgames is participation rather than just spectatorship. Along those lines a major Outfest event will be a Digital Arts Competition, which will accept submissions from across North America. A jury will select the best art, which will be purchased by Outfest for as much as $5000. Similarly, other groups who want to arrange events are encouraged to do so—already several youth events are scheduled. The approach guarantees that everyone will find something to please.

Kelly Ernst, one of the Outfest organizers and one of the eight COL board members, says that their next big step is sponsorship. Fairytales is committed to not going into deficit to run the event, which will rely primarily on ticket sales. Their goal is to try and keep the cost of attending all the events of the week under $250 dollars. Sponsorship will be a big help in meeting that goal—as will volunteers! Outfest is ripe with opportunities to help out and interested individuals are encouraged to get in contact. All told, about 10,000 people are expected to be involved in Outfest.

Part of Fairytales' reason for making the event fiscally viable is that the intention is that Outfest launches a yearly event: The Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival. They see Outfest as being a key step in promoting Calgary as a creative and open city.

Building on the success of the Outrights conference that was part of the Montréal Outgames, the Calgary Outrights conference, on April 2 and 3, will be similarly structured into themes.

The first theme, "Creating Social Change", will discuss how to combat the stigma and discrimination that continue to undermine the wellbeing of the GLBT community in North America. Questions about what policies and actions not only foster immediate change but foster sustainable and continuing change, will be explored as well as emphasizing that, in addition to government, business also plays an important role enacting social change.

The second theme, "Essential Rights", will focus on the fact that sexual orientation is rarely included in human rights legislation—a particularly apropos theme for Alberta, which still does not explicitly include sexual orientation in our legislation. Important discussions will include how these rights weather changes in the political climate, and how stigma and discrimination allow the perpetuation of human rights violations and undermine consistent enforcement of the law.

The third theme, "Health", will face the discrimination that GLBT communities face in terms of access to and provision of health care services, as well as how social determinants like homophobia contribute to higher than average rates of depression, drug dependence and HIV/AIDS infection.

Finally, the fourth theme, "Inclusion Within", takes an introspective look at our own communities and how they do or do not recognize our own diversity. Factors like age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, able-bodiedness, religious affiliation and marital status in some cases continue to be divisive. How we can make use of our strengths and diversity to understand what it means to be part of a growing, diverse and influential community will be discussed.

The final product of the Montréal Outrights conference was a document— the "Declaration of Montréal", which was presented and circulated to governments and organizations worldwide. Similarly, this year's conference intends to produce the "Calgary Blueprint for Action" which will be a template that can be applied to or used by any community within a North American context.

Susan Cress, the director of AIDS Calgary and another COL board member, says that the document will be an interesting challenge to put together because of the variety of political climates, laws, and primary issues that communities face even just within North America. However, they are committed to putting together something that will be a useful tool for grass-roots organizations, especially in more rural areas. Susan believes that people are primed to understand diversity—it's a matter of giving them the right context and arguments. Especially for the corporate world—if they can be made to see the business case for [accepting/promoting] diversity, they'll be convinced by the economics. The timing of Outrights and its message is serendipitous, coming at the outset of new provincial leadership as it does.

The conference organizers anticipate upwards of 500 participants and have an open call for presentation abstracts. Of course, Outrights is also eager to hear from interested volunteers.

The center for Calgary Outgames info is the website: **calgary2007.com** where you will be able to register, volunteer, and find finalized schedules.

For Calgary, hosting the first North American Outgames is not just an honour, but it is an event that will provide the city with unprecedented opportunities for growth. This is the view of the Calgary Outgames Legacy—they perceive the Outgames not as a one-time event, but the beginning of a process to develop the Calgarian commitment to diversity and openness, such that Calgary continues to be a leader in Alberta, Canada and the world in the fight for equality and human rights. ▼

Sean McLennan is a native Calgarian with (nearly) a PhD in Linguistics and Cognitive Science from Indiana University, where he was heavily involved in GLBT education. He currently has a full time gig in software for mobile technology.

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Casper Andreas

The streets of New York are thick with cinematic ghosts, but since 9-11 Toronto has become a cost effective stand-in for the Big Apple, so production in New York had well… all but disappeared. But with a new tax break, business is booming and New York film hasn't felt this robust in years. This past year saw the production of *Short Bus, A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints, Fur, Infamous, Man Push Cart, Little Children, Borat* and *A Four Letter Word*.

I recently caught up with *A Four Letter Word's* director Casper Andreas for lunch in Manhattan.

Outlooks: Your first film *Slutty Summer* caused quite a stir at the Festival Circuit. How did you come up with the provocative title for the film?

Andreas: When I originally came up with the idea of the film, the title kind of came with it. I waited tables one summer at an outdoor restaurant in Manhattan and the waiters were always discussing their love and sex lives. This one guy in particular was constantly telling me about his latest conquests and one time he actually said the line: "this is gonna be one slutty summer" which I had the character Luke say in the film. I thought it was a very catchy title for the film but it was definitely up for debate.

"Slutty Summer could be perceived as shocking, but I don't think it is"

Outlooks: Do you think having a provocative title has helped in DVD sales?

Andreas: I'm not sure. I think the title implies that the film is more of a sexy romp than it actually is. The film is really about love, dating, and relationships. Of course sex is part of that, but some viewers might be disappointed that there isn't more sex in the film. Then I often hear people saying 'wow, that was a really great film—I didn't expect that from the title'. So I actually think the title has hurt us in some ways—though it did get us a lot of publicity!

Outlooks: *Slutty Summer* was shot on DV and your new film *A Four Letter Word* is being shot in HD. What are the major differences between the two formats and why have you chosen HD this go around?

Andreas: The major difference is that HD has a much higher resolution and will give you a much better picture. Another major difference is that it's way more expensive. HD was never an option when we shot *Slutty Summer*, since we had no budget for that film, but I'm very excited that I was able to shoot HD this time. The picture looks stunning.

Outlooks: There was a significant budget increase from *Slutty Summer* to *A Four Letter Word*. Did you find this made a difference in your approach or were you still managing the production with a 'shoe-string' mentality?

Andreas: It was really nice to be able to pay more people this time, and that the actors didn't have to run off to their day job in the middle of us shooting a scene (which happened sometimes at the *Slutty Summer* shoot, since I wasn't paying any of the actors).

For *A Four Letter Word* we spent a lot of money on the camera package, and with a three-week shoot instead of a two-week shoot, costs increased a lot. So even though the budget was more than four times the one for *Slutty Summer* it is still an ultra-low budget film. A shooting budget of $80,000 for a feature film really is nothing when you think about all the costs involved–salaries, locations, insurance, equipment rentals, catering, wardrobe, props, etc, etc. I definitely shot it with a shoestring mentality.

Andreas and movie poster

Outlooks: You starred, wrote, directed, produced, and edited *Slutty Summer*. What were the many challenges of wearing so many hats?

Andreas: I think the biggest challenge was money. If we had had enough money for me to be able to take time out to rewind and watch what we just shot between the takes, things would have been much easier. Instead when I was in a scene, it was really hard for me to know what we actually had shot, and I often had to just hope that I had gotten what I needed before moving on to the next scene. I ended up editing the film, since I didn't have any money left to hire anyone else, and since I wasn't able to work on it full time that process took forever.

Outlooks: Your first two feature films are romantic comedies. Have you found yourself home in this genre or are there others you'd like to try?

Andreas: I most definitely want to try other genres. The next film I'm planning to shoot is a relationship drama. It has a lot of humor in it as well, but it's more on the dramatic side. That film is also a gay film but I'm interested in telling other stories too. I would love to direct a period film.

Outlooks: *A Four Letter Word* has several out, gay actors in the leading roles. Do you find it beneficial to cast gay to play gay?

Andreas: I didn't ask actors if they were gay before I cast them. I just cast the actors who did the best job in the auditions and who fit with how I saw the characters. However, I definitely feel that actors who are gay best understand the characters, and I'm very happy that so many in my cast are open about it. I'm openly gay myself and though I understand why some choose not too, it's annoying to me. Especially since closeted gay actors sometimes are freaked out about playing gay roles and then won't help with publicity because they don't want to be asked about their sexuality.

Outlooks: There is a certain shock value to your work. Is it intentional, or do you think what is socially acceptable in North America is different in Sweden, where you grew up?

Andreas: Of course if one is shocked by two guys kissing or talking about gay sex then sure, *Slutty Summer* could be perceived as shocking, but I don't think it is. It's just reality the way I've seen it. I don't think *A Four Letter Word* will be very shocking either. But neither film is made for mainstream middle America. They are made with a gay audience in mind, so I didn't see any reason to tiptoe around the fact that these guys are having sex and falling in love with other guys.

Outlooks: What are the challenges of filmmaking in Manhattan?

Andreas: Manhattan is a great place to shoot! The city of New York is very helpful with locations and permits, plus they give you tax breaks. With *Slutty Summer* we didn't have money for insurance and because of that we couldn't get permits, so that film was truly made guerilla style. And I don't know if we were just lucky but we managed to shoot lots of scenes on streets and in parks in Manhattan without incident. NYC is also great because there are so many creative people living here and I met so many fantastic people who got excited about being part of making a movie and helped me out tremendously with everything from letting me shoot in their apartments, show up to be extras in the film, or help out behind the scenes in different ways.

Outlooks: You've chosen a life in New York as opposed to film-centric Los Angeles. Why?

Andreas: Actually I lived in LA for a few years, pursuing acting. I love many things about LA: the beach, the mountains, the weather, and the more relaxed

lifestyle. However, I was always struggling a lot out there and for whatever reason I just seem to be doing better in New York, so I'm glad that I moved back.

Though I have some great friends who I met in LA, I also met a lot of shady people when I lived there. Who you are perceived to be seems so much more important than whom you actually are to so many people in LA, and I found that a lot of people were quite dishonest. I realize that might all just be part of the "Hollywood game", but I prefer the realness of New Yorkers.

Jesse Archer being thrown out of car

Outlooks: What is the biggest issue facing the GLBT community today?

Andreas: Complacency; Gay people taking the rights we have for granted and thinking there is no way things can be worse again. It wasn't long ago that being gay was illegal and in many countries it's still punished with death. History has proven that it's easy to turn good people against minority groups as a way to gain political advantage. As gay people, it's our responsibility to educate others and fight for everybody's equal rights on a global level. Many gay people have died because of their work to get us to where we are today. I think we owe it to them to not only enjoy the freedoms we gained, but to continue to fight for them.

Outlooks: While shooting a love scene in *A Four Letter Word*, you insisted that the characters were shown to be having protected sex. How important is it as artists and filmmakers to be socially conscious?

Andreas: I think it's important for everyone to be socially conscious. Everything we do has ramifications on people around us. As a filmmaker, I'm in the privileged situation of having my ideas being viewed by many. Having grown up in Sweden I was taught about HIV and safe sex in school since the age of twelve. I think it's very disturbing that many gay men are having unprotected sex and putting themselves and others at risk. It's so unnecessary! *Slutty Summer* is a romantic comedy and I didn't want to bring up HIV in the film, but as I was editing it there was all this talk about how HIV infections are on the rise among gay men. So I added a line in the film, having Luke, the sluttiest character, mention condoms. It was a small adjustment but it was important for me that people know that though my characters might be slutty–they are not having unprotected sex because that is just stupid!

Outlooks: What's next for Casper Andreas?

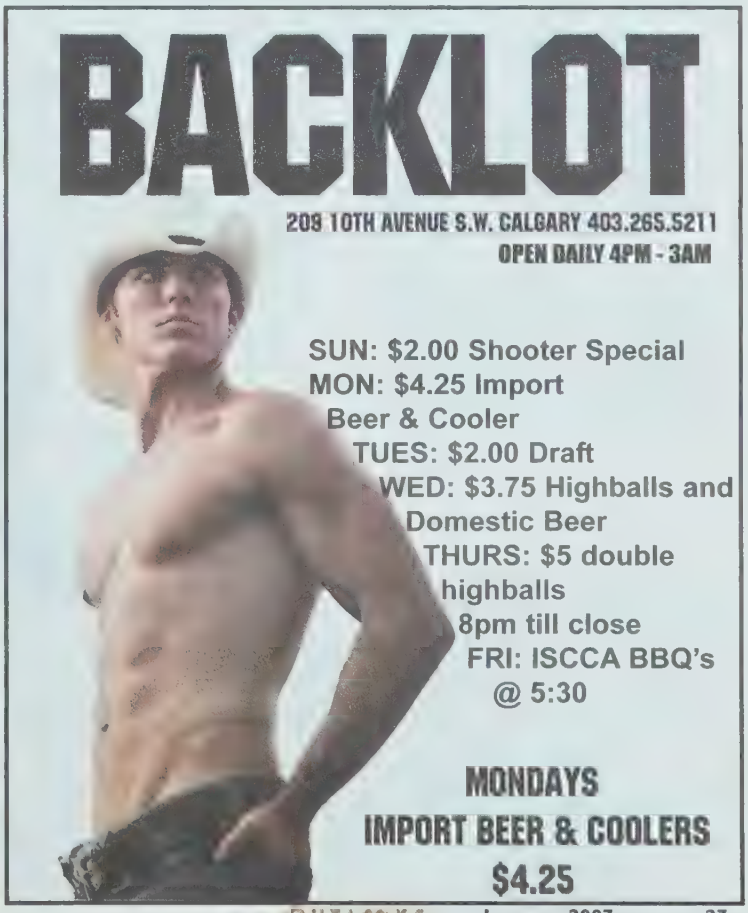
Andreas: Right now I'm working on finishing *A Four letter Word*. Hopefully the film will be ready to go to festivals in the spring of this year. I'm very excited about it! Shooting it was such a joy (and) working with so many great actors and a great crew and all the footage looks really good so I can't wait for it to be all cut together! Also, I'm developing my next film. The script is ready so I just need to raise some cash…

Outlooks: Where can we rent or buy your movies?

Andreas: You will have to wait a bit for *A Four Letter Word* but you can buy *Slutty Summer* at **sluttysummer.com**, TLA Video, Amazon, Barnes and Noble etc. It's also available to rent at Blockbuster, Rogers Video and Netflix. ▼

For more info visit: **casperandreas.com**, **afourletterwordmovie.com**, **sluttysummer.com**, **embrem.com**

Charlie David is an actor and co-host of Bump! on OUTtv.



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Be Part Of History

Oscar Wilde

By Ralph Higgins

Nova Scotia has a long and varied history, and that includes a rich queer past. The first permanent European settlement in North America was established here in 1606 and when the Order Of Good Cheer was set up in Port Royal, the law of averages suggests that a goodly percentage of that companionship must have been of the queer variety. In a fort full of men, it is going to take more than roast venison and home made beer to keep the spirits up. And long before the Europeans arrived there were the Mi'kmaq and their two-spirited members.

However, all of this is conjecture and surmise—not documented, verifiable same-sex activity.

We do know, from Robin Metcalfe's book, *Queer Looking, Queer Acting*, that in 1752 some soldiers were arrested in Halifax for "sodomitical practices" and that it was reported in the local newspaper. And, in 1882 Oscar Wilde visited the port city but whether he found the local bootblacks to his taste is unknown. Thus far there have been no secret diaries of stable boys detailing what queer life he may have sampled, no inns—or stables—boasting that Oscar slept here.

To ensure that more recent history does not suffer from the same lack of documentation is the raison d'être of the Halifax Gay History Project. In fact, there are several gay history projects, each with its own approach and priorities but sharing the same goal: to preserve, document and record queer life in Halifax. Traditionally gays and lesbians are drawn to larger metropolitan centres where anonymity is possible and where, in the larger population base, they may find others like themselves. What happens in the capital city reflects activity elsewhere in the province.

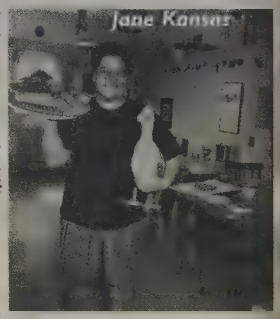
Robin Metcalfe's book, *Queer Looking, Queer Acting*, mentioned above, is a wonderful source of information on archival materials. A Nova Scotia native, Metcalfe is a well-known artist and curator, as well as an early activist for gay rights in the province. An ardent collector, his written discussion of ephemera: posters for dances, after hours bar invitations, handout sheets for demonstrations, mimeographed news sheets and copies of the first gay newspapers, gives a wonderfully vivid picture of the day to day (and night to night) gay life from the 1970s and 80s.

Chris Aucoin, another prominent member of the queer community, has spent considerable time and effort, gathering and recording items and events of note in Halifax. In 2003, he published a souvenir history magazine in which he placed in context local events and gay rights' progress with the achievements of the international queer community.

An online encylopedia of queer life is found at **http://gay.hfxns.org**. Based on the work of writers such as Metcalfe and Aucoin, the constantly evolving Gay History Project began in 2001. Dan Mackay, one of the mainstays of the project, explains that it initially was begun as a "bulletin board for the local gay community. I got involved by contributing content and running a backup system so that the content could never get lost." There is already considerable content but more is needed. MacKay's goal is to have a page for "every person, place, thing and event of significance to the rainbow community in Halifax, ever. I'd love to include the material documenting Citadel Hill as a cruising area two hundred years ago. And I love the way [that] when something happens in our community it's documented that day. [W]e have a fairly well written page on every drag personality in the city. For example, if there's a contest that ends at 2:00 a.m., by 4:00 a.m. the encyclopedia's been updated with the new title-holders. The level of enthusiastic support from municipal and provincial governments has been very refreshing and we're looking forward to turning some of that enthusiasm into grants for writers."

The wiki format of the Halifax Gay History Project makes it incredibly user friendly and the opening page has a section Tips For Contributors. MacKay explains: "Every page has an 'Edit this page' button at the bottom. We have a small team of people interested in taking care of the content and making sure that all changes are intentional and contribute positively to the work as a whole. [I]t is impossible for a web user to permanently delete content, and if someone messes up an article, they or one of the caretakers can, with a few clicks, restore the original or merge the original and new content."

There are historians who bring their expertise for documenting and verifying fact and events, but one of the most important aspects of the project is the anecdotal contribution of individuals who share their memories and thoughts on the past. Reg Giles' *Peanut Butter And Jelly Sandwich* is a perfect example. Giles describes his initial reluctance to revisit a past that was not always rainbow bright. "Finding myself crying at times for days ... it became a source of healing for me. After I was diagnosed HIV+ I found myself being mad at the world including me but the more I wrote, life became easier. My main focus was going to be about the Turret Club and as time went on the story expanded to include The Heidelberg Lounge, cruising and a whole array of aspects of the Gay Community of the time."



Jane Kansas

MacKay, who often encouraged Giles, describes it as "vignettes of life in the eighties, populated by the queer folk of the community at the time, set in their demesnes—cruising areas, the community-owned bar, and other hangouts—and richly illustrated by photographs that he and friends took."

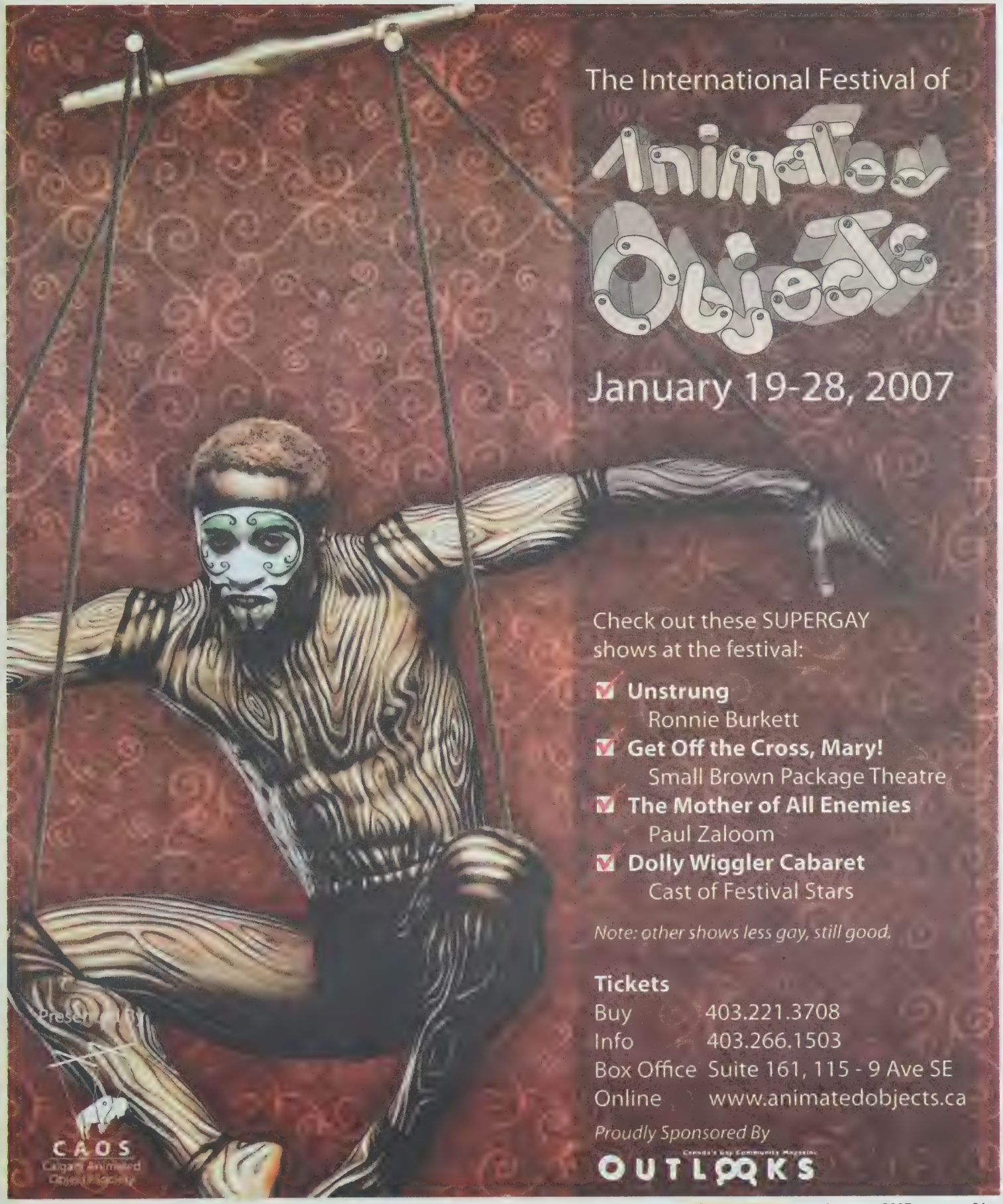
Getting writers to contribute remains the biggest challenge for the project. "Some people are quite modest and do not want to help with biographical material about themselves; many people who like to write, prefer to write fiction; getting women involved has been a major challenge and finally and most surprisingly to me, some people who were gay rights activists in the 1970s, have gone back into the closet!"

The focus on the past does not preclude interest in the present. MacKay says, "Probably the single biggest use of the encyclopedia is by people "from away" checking out how vibrant the Halifax community is, how much is going on here, and what resources are available."

From the scholarly to the scurrilous, the tourist to the sociologist, the Gay History Project has something to offer everyone. As Giles says, "if you have been around for one day or fifty years, one becomes part of the history."

Henry Ford was wrong: History is not bunk. Both individually and collectively, we need to note our achievements, to celebrate the queer men and women who protested, danced, cruised, married (finally!), lived and died. In recording their thoughts, anger, laughter, love and joy, we are claiming a place for ourselves. ▼

Ralph Higgins is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.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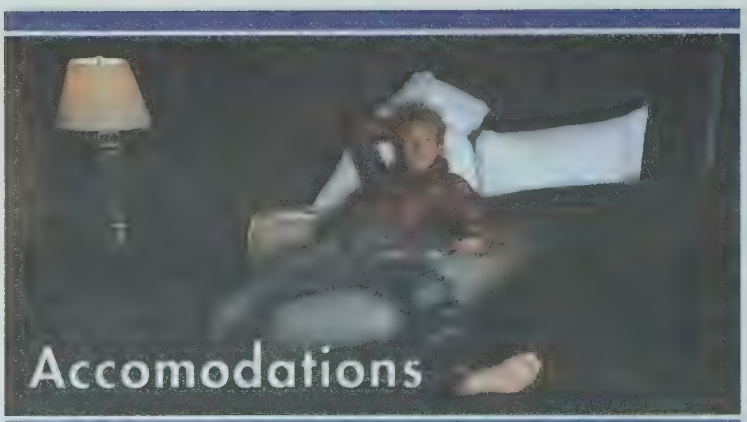

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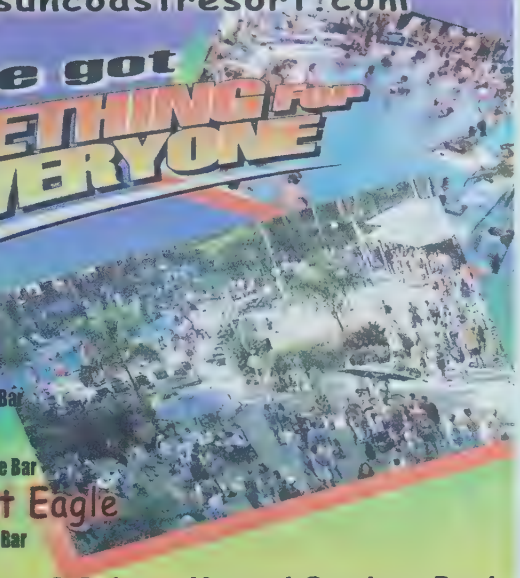

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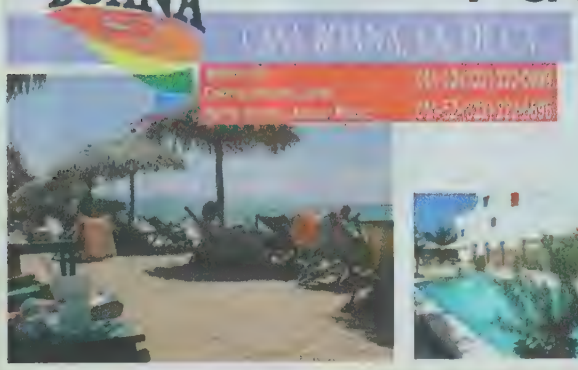

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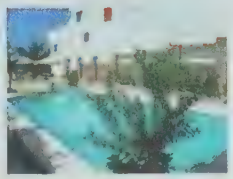

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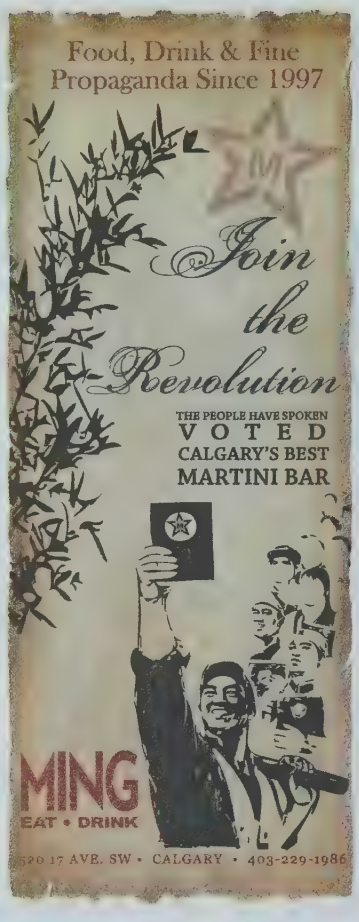
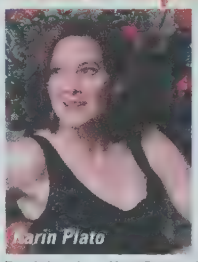


KUDOS VANCOUVER JANUARY 2007

Upcoming fundraising Events

Thursday, February 1st, at The River Rock Show Theatre, don't miss:

Coast Capital Jazzilla…A Monster Jazz Event!


Karin Plato

Jazzilla is a celebration of the fantastic jazz vocalists and musicians that are home grown and world-renowned!

The **Shooting Stars Foundation** is adding a ***"Monster Jazz Show"*** to their roster of *"sell out"* annual events that will feature 20 of the top jazz vocalists in British Columbia. Jazzilla will be a phenomenal gathering of talent *"on one stage, on one night"* that will highlight the timelessness and various styles of Jazz.

The brilliance of the lineup is undeniable, including Dee Daniels, Jennifer Scott, Steve Maddock, Karin Plato, Kate Hammett-Vaughan, Don Stewart, Alita Dupray, Ron Small, Patti V, UBC Swing Kids, Lorraine Foster, James Forrest, Coco Love Alcorn, Carman J. Price, Matthew Smith, Leora Cashe, and Glenda Rae. Hosted by CBC's popular Paul Grant . The musical director is none other than Miles Black (keys), with Rene Worst (bass), Tom Colclough (sax) and Graham Boyle (drums) filling out a "monster" jazz quartet on their own.

The Shooting Stars Foundation presents Coast Capital Jazzilla – A Monster Jazz Event at the River Rock Show Theatre (8611 River Road, Richmond) on Thursday, February 1st, 2007. Tickets $34.50 / $54.50 (Golden Circle) are available through Ticketmaster (604-280-4444).

www.shootingstarsfoundation.org for more info.

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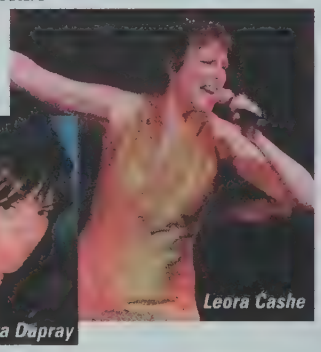
Leora Cashe
Alita Dupray

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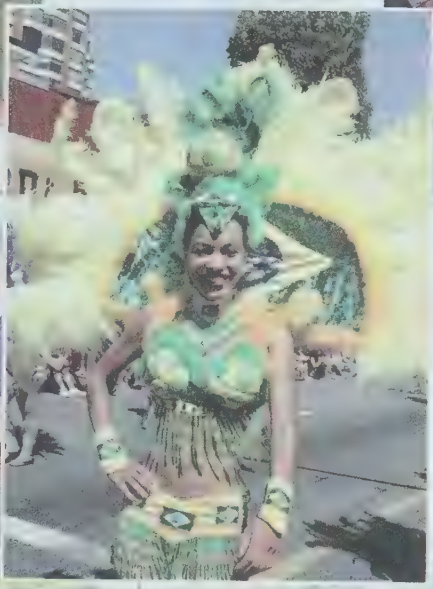
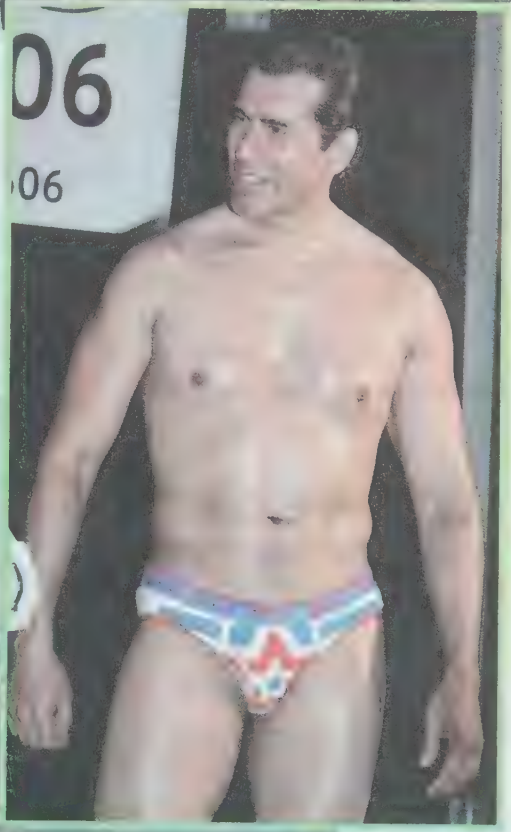
Vancouver 2006 YEAR in REVIEW





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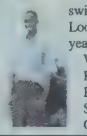

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Miss Agyeiwaa Bertha
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Ghana W/A

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Ghana W/A

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Flat House 6 - Villa City
PO BOX 187 - Berekum - B/A
Ghana

I am a nice slim attractive black guy 22 years old and would like to meet the man of my dreams. I am caring, sexy, loving, handsome and gentle.
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Please write to Richard Asare
PO BOX 241 Nsoatre - B/A
Ghana, West Africa

Young, slim Ghanaian guy. Handsome, honest, caring, romantic and easy going. Interested in traveling and music. Looking for serious guy for friendship. Please write with photo and phone number :
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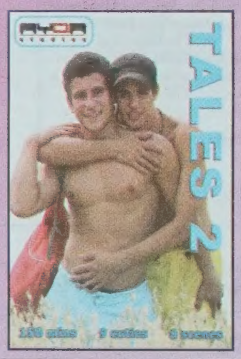
Tales 2

From: AYOR Studios



Featuring: Jakub Jelinek, Ondrej Sokol, Nikolas Markov, Sebastian Polner, Nick Wollner, Sergey Davidov, Andrej Rovensky, Dominik Trojan, Johnny Hunter

Running Time: 160 Minutes

They have their hobbies, loves and dreams, while enjoying their lives to the fullest. As they tell their stories, like dreams come true, they change your life forever—as you naturally begin to fantasize about Eastern European men. Each of these nine different tales comes to life with vivid scenes of hot sex in sultry settings.

First up in front of the camera is Jakub, a college student and part-time waiter who lives in northern Bohemia and enjoys the outdoors. He loves his summers by the lake, as he always meets new friends when he's there. He tells a tale about meeting Dominik and hiking together in the nearby mountains and forests. A youthful crush turns into hot passion surrounded by Mother Nature at her best. Aggressive Dominik thinks he's the master until Jakub drops his jeans to reveal his superiority. Raging hormones overcome both of them in their secluded hilltop retreat.

The next storyteller is Ondrej, a DJ, who is able to enjoy his love of music and able to work at the same time. But when it's time to play, his love of men equals his addiction to music. He works in Prague on the weekends and looks for sex whenever he's in a club. Ondrej and Jakub also enjoy the outdoors together, but prefer to make-out in the city. Once again Jakub is the dominant partner and Ondrej happily submits to his advances.

As each scenario unfolds, this group of handsome young men proves they are full of arousing stories to recount, stories, which are sure to please anyone who takes the time to listen and watch.

Review sponsored by Express Video
#202 - 11745 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton
(780)482-7480 exec.express@shaw.ca

RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★
ACTION:	★★★★★
SETS:	★★★★★
STORY:	★★★★★

RudeBoyz 5: Council Trash

From: Eurocreme
Rudeboiz Studios

Featuring: Will Jamieson, Ethan Thorne, Leo Southcott, Grant B, Kyle J, Anthony Thomas, Mikey B, Ashley Ryder, Sam Barclay, Anthony Turner

Running Time: 100 minutes

Once again Rudeboiz Studio has scoured the council estates of London, England to assemble an amazing cast of men with short hair, tattoos and huge endowments to star in their latest video. In five hot scenes, these young Brits prove that a stiff upper lip can also be useful to stiffen another body part.

This DVD also includes a series of interviews with the cast members relating their experiences on the movie sets. These revelations come complete with real British accents in a fascinating look behind the scenes.

Will and Anthony start the action with an afternoon tryst at Will's flat. Will is ready for seduction in a bright red T-shirt and tight white shorts. A greeting kiss is all it takes for Anthony to submit to Will's passionate mood. Will is eager to show off his swollen member and Anthony opens wide with pleasure.

Next, Ethan and Lorne are up for some afternoon nookie at Lorne's flat. Each sporting a massive hard-on, they make good use of a leather love seat for hot action. There's no time to head for the bedroom as these two duke it out in the living room.

Kyle takes an afternoon stroll to his mate Grant's flat, only to find Grant ready for hot sex. They waste no time stripping off their clothes and Kyle dominates as Grant happily submits. Once again the living room is perfect for great spontaneous sex.

Elsewhere in the council estates, Anthony waits patiently for his friend Mikey to arrive. He occupies himself with a little hand action, some stroking and massaging, which reveals ten inches ready and waiting for Mikey. Fortunately, Mikey proves to be his equal and these two hunks give new meaning to the myth that size matters.

Watching this movie you might notice that all the cars are on the wrong side of the road but these British lads make no mistakes as they are on the right track for hot sex.

Review sponsored by

eurocreme.com

RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★½
ACTION:	★★★★★½
SETS:	★★★★
STORY:	★

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Friendship & Relationship:
I'm 34 years old, 5'9", 140lb, brown hair, blue eyes. I'm looking for someone to hang out with, get to know, and perhaps make it into a long-term relationship. I'm not into the bar scene; I'm pretty easy-going, passionate, as well as easy to get to know. I enjoy going out with friends, but also staying at home enjoying the company of someone special... I enjoy guys who are older and stockier than myself.

Casual Encounters:
Hey guys, I'm mid-40s, 5'11", 190lb, brown hair/eyes/moustache, smooth build, 7" cut dick, nice ass, and I'm versatile. I'm looking for other masculine discrete guys out there who want to have some fun. I'm pretty open-minded.

Casual Encounters:
Horny young guy, 34 years old, hot for cock, bisexual bottom. I'm looking to give oral to guys that want it. I prefer bigger guys, maybe different nationalities, but I just love sucking big dicks of any kind. If you shoot a lot of sperm, that's hot, that's so hot.

Something Wild:
Hi guys, how ya doing? Just waiting here to hear back from somebody hot and horny. I've got a great big ol' thick cock in my hand, just pounding it. Wishing you could help me on with it. Can't wait to hear back.

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